THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) A colony of about 700 houses is being developed on the outskirts of Bhopal. 425 houses have since been completed out of which about 300 houses have been occupied by the staff.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Unused land in the Railways

2207. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment to find out the acreage of land belonging to Railways lying unused for a long time in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of such land in each State; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to utilise the same?

THE. MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) No. Sir. However, as per estimates available, about 61,000 hectare of railway land is lying vacant at present.

(c) The railway land which is lying vacant will be required for Railways' developmental works in future. There is also a proposal for exploring the feasibility of commercially exploiting space over railway land and land presently lying vacant, without obstructing the use of the land by Railways when required. This matter is in the processing stage.

Improvements in working of Ports

2208. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 4,000 crores are required during the Eighth Five Year Plan period for improving the port facilities in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the working of the ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A Working Group of the Ministry examined the requirements of the various ports and assessed that an amount of Rs. 4204 crores would be required during the 8th Five Year Plan for improving the port facilities in the country.

(b) Improvement of port facilities is a continuous process. In the 7th Plan, thrust was on the following:

i. development of infrastructure;

ii. modernisation of port facilities;

iii. development of facilities to handle containers;

iv. deepening of ports-on a selective basis;

v. improvement in productivity of labour and equipment,

vi. improvement in financial viability; and

vii. encouraging private sector participation in certain areas such as ship repair, dry docking, container handling etc.

The thrust for improvement of port facilities in the 8th plan is on:

i. development of infra-structure in ports in consonance with the overall economic growth;

ii. increasing level of containerisation in the country;

iii. dedpening of ports for handling the bigger sized ships in ore handling ports;

iv. mechanisation of loading/unloading facilities; and

v. improving productivity in labour and equipment.

Vehicles with Central Red Light

2209. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of private vahicles in Delhi are having Central Red Light on their bonnets;

(b) if so, the significance thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware